Volunteer Position Description

The Nature Conservancy conserves the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Position Title: Cascade Head Preserve Volunteer Naturalist
Location: Cascade Head Preserve, Otis
Reports to: Debbie Pickering, Oregon Coast Ecologist
Molly Dougherty, Director of Volunteer Programs

Position Summary: The Cascade Head Preserve volunteer naturalist interacts with visitors on summer weekends during the peak visitor use season. The naturalist greets visitors, introduces The Nature Conservancy, answers questions, fosters compliance with regulations and reports visitor use to The Nature Conservancy. The duties of this position will be split among several volunteers.

Duties:
1) Schedule volunteer dates and confirm scheduled dates at least one week ahead with the Director of Volunteer Programs.
2) Maintain a visible presence on the preserve from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wear a Nature Conservancy nametag and/or hat while serving as a naturalist.
3) Carry the information resource packet and optional personal resource materials.
5) Answer questions when possible or refer the visitor to Nature Conservancy staff or other appropriate resources.
6) Explain preserve regulations as required to obtain cooperation from the visitors.
7) Track visitor use by completing the feedback form at the end of the day. Return it to The Nature Conservancy as soon as possible.

Requirements:
1) Good interpersonal skills.
2) Ability to learn about the Cascade Head Preserve and The Nature Conservancy.
3) Ability to answer general questions from the public.
4) Physical ability to walk trails (5 miles round trip, approximately 800’ elevation gain).
5) Willingness to commit to the mission of The Nature Conservancy.
6) When working alone, we require that you contact another individual to notify him/her of your work schedule and to confirm that you have returned home safely for each day you volunteer at the preserve.

Length of appointment: April - October field season

Time Commitment: One day of training (May 30) and two weekend days as a naturalist

Support Provided: One day of onsite training with preserve ecologist and detailed resource manual
Tips and Reminders for Volunteer Naturalists

- Naturalists are expected to encourage compliance with preserve regulations, but should not take a confrontational approach when communicating with visitors. If a preserve visitor is disregarding the naturalist’s explanation of guidelines, the naturalist should report the visitor’s actions to a volunteer or coast program staff member rather than attempt to force compliance.

- Report any illegal activity on the preserve to a volunteer program or coast staff member. Do not contact the sheriff or local authorities directly. Do not try to confront anyone on the preserve who is participating in illegal activities.

- Volunteer naturalists are invited to look for and report new occurrences of harmful invasive plants while serving on the preserve. Please see the Weed Watcher section of your manual for more information.